

The Physician's BOOKSHELF



BASIC OTOLARYNGOLOGY—David A. Dolowitz, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery; Chairman, Division of Otorhinolaryngology, University of Utah College of Medicine; Staff, Holy Cross Hospital, Salt Lake City. McGraw-Hill Book Company (The Blakiston Division), New York, 1964. 383 pages, \$12.50.

Dr. Dolowitz has oriented his book for the student and the general practitioner as a reference text on the routine examination, diagnosis and treatment of otolaryngologic problems. The book consists of 13 chapters, six of which are concerned with regional diseases, along with a basic anatomical and physiological review of those areas. The remainder of the chapters discuss common problems related to the specialty such as the URI, deafness, vertigo, facial paralysis and headache.

The section on the diseases of the mouth and pharynx is particularly comprehensive, while that of the treatment of otolaryngologic emergencies, by its very brevity, becomes an efficient and concise reference source. A detailed bibliography at the end of each of the chapters enables the reader to pursue details of interest. The subject index appears to be quite complete.

Unfortunately, because of poor illustrations, inadequate editing, inconsistent organization, redundancies, and obsolescence in its coverage of such an important subject as microsurgery of the ear, this work falls below the standards established by other, recent otolaryngology texts.

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THE DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF DIARRHEA—Edited by Sherman M. Mellinkoff, M.D., Dean and Professor of Medicine, University of California (Los Angeles) School of Medicine. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Blakiston Division, New York, 1964. 366 pages, \$16.00.

This book comprises a number of chapters by different authors, each of whom deals with a group of causes of diarrhea. The quality of the chapters is variable. In some, there is a tendency towards enumeration of every conceivable cause of disturbed bowel function, regardless of their clinical incidence and importance, whereas in other chapters an exemplary balance is achieved. Some duplication of material is inevitable but is rather less evident than is usual in works of this kind.

The editor contributes an introductory chapter which contains a number of telling points. It is, however, unfortunate that nowhere can any impression be gained of the relative incidence and importance of causes of diarrhea in various regions of the United States. There is a useful summary by J. M. Adams of the present state of knowledge of virus enteritis and there are excellent accounts by Hendrix of ulcerative colitis and regional enteritis and by Clinton Texer of malabsorption syndromes in adults. The chapter on psychogenic diarrhea would be improved by brief comment on other aspects of therapy than the purely psychiatric.

These criticisms apart, this appears to be a book which provides a useful source of information to the student and internist when confronted with a case of diarrhea of which the cause is not immediately evident.

PSYCHIATRIC CARE—Psychiatry Simplified for Therapeutic Action—Jurgen Ruesch, M.D., Carroll M. Brodsky, Ph.D., M.D., and Ames Fischer, M.D. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N.Y., 1964. 238 pages, \$8.75.

This book reviews in basic fashion the nature and treatment of psychiatric disorders and the problems of those who treat them. It is eclectic, unorthodox in format, and written in simple English, succinct and clear.

Its admitted selectivity and simplification lead to diagnostic statements that vary from the thoughtful and provocative—"Age is the most significant single determinant of behavior" to the dubious—"Preferably, the drug (barbiturate) is withdrawn abruptly."

Some may be irritated by its occasional telegrammatic style, multiple lists and subheadings, but the sections on the psychiatric consultation and on communication with relatives, officials and others should be required reading for all psychiatric residents.

Highly recommended for its stated purpose "Psychiatry simplified for therapeutic action" and for its stated audience "Practicing physicians, psychiatric residents, clinical psychologists, social workers, nurses and others who have to deal with patients."

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NEUROLOGICAL AND ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHIC CORRELATIVE STUDIES IN INFANCY—Edited by Peter Kellaway and Ingemar Petersen. A Conference and Symposium sponsored by the World Federation of Neurology and presented under the auspices of Baylor University College of Medicine with the support of the National Institutes of Health and Houston Endowment, October 2 and 3, 1963. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York and London, 1964. 364 pages, \$14.75.

This monograph is concerned with the ontogenetic evolution of the electrical activity of the brain and the correlation of this evaluation with morphological and behavioral development.

The conference, from which the book is compiled, consisted of 20 scientific presentations which may be divided into two parts. The first 11 papers are concerned with basic research on the maturing electrical activity of the brain, mostly animal. Although the section is of considerable scientific interest, it has limited clinical application. It does provide stimulating reading on such subjects as tissue culture morphology and related electrical activity, maturation of the evoked cortical response in infants and the considered role of the neuroglia in the maturation of some of the slow activity of the cortical electrogram.

The last nine papers (with one exception) deal with the normal maturing, wake and sleep, EEG of infancy, including variables within the normal range and the character and significance of certain abnormal EEG's. For example, there are good presentations on occipital slow and spike foci; EEG in infants with seizures, hypoxic crises, breath holding and subdural collections. The clinically applicable information in these last nine papers is essential reading for the electroencephalographer and of clinical interest and value to the neurologist and neurosurgeon.